

Chico

**Golden  
Empire  
Amateur  
Radio  
Society, Inc.**

www.gears-w6rhc.org

"Dedicated to Public Service"

# THE RADIATOR

W6RHC  
IRLP #8170

P.O. Box 202 Chico, CA 95927

## ***80 YEARS 1939 - 2019***

August 2019 Newsletter

GEARS Founded August 13, 1939

### **News**

What a different world it was in 1939 and Chico was a very different place as well. It was on August 13, 1939 that eleven amateur operators formed GEARS. I doubt they would have ever imagined that their club would endure as long as it has.

In the feature story below I've written about how they formed our club and what our little town was like 80 years ago.

The work continues on our new repeater project. Several members from both GEARS and GARS visited the site on St. John to begin the preparation work. This will be a second repeater with a different frequency pair, the Forest Ranch repeater will stay as is. Our goal is to have the new site operational by November.

At our last meeting Kevin Fullerton WB7SKS gave an excellent presentation on communication during the Camp Fire and how the community can communicate in future disasters.

At our next meeting on August 16, our own Rich Astley N3UOR will teach a class on first aid and CPR.

Don't forget the Steak Bake is September 7th at the Wildwood picnic area in Chico 3:30 - 7pm. We will celebrate our 80th anniversary there.



'73  
Jim Matthews K6EST  
[jiminchico@yahoo.com](mailto:jiminchico@yahoo.com)  
530-893-3314



Join GEARS on Facebook  
[www.facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com) For timely  
news and additional information.

## August 2019 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7pm PARS Net 7:30pm Simplex Net	2	3
4 2pm VEC Testing 8pm OARS Net	5 7pm GARS Net 8pm ARES Net	6 7:30pm GEARS Net	7	8 7pm PARS Net 6:30 GARS Meeting 7:30pm Simplex Net	9 7pm OARS Meeting	10 9am Chico Breakfast
11 8pm OARS Net	12 7pm GARS Net 8pm ARES Net	13 7:30pm GEARS Net	14	15 7pm PARS Net 7:30pm Simplex Net	16 7pm GEARS Meeting	17
18 8pm OARS Net	19 7pm GARS Net 8pm ARES Net	20 7:30pm GEARS Net 7pm ARES Meeting	21	22 7pm PARS Net 7:30pm Simplex Net	23	24
25 8pm OARS Net	26 7pm GARS Net 8pm ARES Net	27 7:30pm GEARS Net	28	29 7pm PARS Net 7:30pm Simplex Net	30	31 9am OARS Breakfast

**VEC Testing**, FCC License Exam First Sunday of every even numbered month, at the Butte County Search and Rescue Building. Written test at 2:00 pm. For information or registration call Tom Rider, W6JS 514-9211

**Chico Breakfast** 2nd Saturday of the month 9 am Farmers Skillet 1818, 690 Rio Lindo Ave, Chico

**GEARS Board Meeting** 2nd Saturday of the month at Vitalant (formally Bloodsource) following the breakfast.

**OARS Meeting** Second Friday of the month, 7:00 pm, at St. Paul's Church Parish Hall, 1430 Pine St., Oroville

**GARS Meeting** Second Thursday of the month, 6:30 pm Lutheran Church Hall, 565 Main St. Artois.

**Butte ARES Meeting** 3rd Tuesday, Except Nov & Dec. at Chico Veterans Hall 7pm. Contact Dale Anderson, KK6EVX 826-3461 for more information.

**GEARS Meeting**, third Friday of the month, Butte County Search and Rescue Bldg., Chico. Social hour 6:00 pm, meeting at 7:00 pm.

**OARS Breakfast** 4th Saturday of the month 9am Gold Country Casino & Hotel, 4020 Olive Hwy, Oroville

### NETS:

OARS Club Net Sunday 8pm 146.655 Mhz - PL 136.5

GARS Club Net: Monday, 7:00 pm 147.105 MHz + PL 110.09

Butte ARES Net Mondays 8pm 145.290 MHz - PL 110.9

Yuba Sutter Club Net Monday 7pm 146.085 MHz + PL 127.3

GEARS Club Net Tuesdays 7:30 PM 146.850 MHz - PL 110.9

PARS Club Net Thursday 7pm 145.290 - PL 110.9

Simplex Net Thursday 7:30 p.m. 146.52 no tone

Yuba Sutter ARES Net Thursdays 7pm 146.085 MHz + PL 127.3

Sacramento Valley Traffic Net Nightly 9:00 PM 146.850 MHz - PL 110.9



We have submitted our 2019 Field Day logs to the ARRL.

Our total score was 2220 points, with 435 contacts.

Thanks for your participation!

## 80 Years Ago

It was a hot Sunday afternoon, August 13th 1939. Eleven local amateur radio operators and their families met at Sycamore Pool for a picnic and established the Golden Empire Amateur Radio Society.

They were:

Frank Warnick W6KYO president, Butte City  
Burr A. Heywood W6DPL vice president, Chico  
N.O. Dixon W6RHC secretary-treasurer, Chico  
Ken Keller W6PFH, Princeton  
Boyd Hart W6RAQ, Chico  
Henry Davis W6DTV, Chico  
Dan Cortopassi W6GHP, Roseville  
Al Guilliford W6FPN, Lincoln, president of Placer Radio Club  
Charles Keplinger W6OUY, Butte City  
Mason Stockton W6KUJ, Glenn  
Chet Uilum W6BDW, Gridley

The world was a very different place back then. US population was 130.9 million. Our president was Franklin D. Roosevelt. We weren't involved in WWII as yet, Roosevelt submits \$1,319-million defense budget, proclaims U.S. neutrality, and declares limited emergency. New York World's Fair opens.

The Chico population was 9,280, F.W. Seydel was the city mayor. The people of Chico were anxiously awaiting a new movie that had scenes filmed here, however "Gone With the Wind" would not be released until December. Potatoes were 9 cents for 10 pounds at Miller's Market, hamburger was 14 cents a pound. Over at the Chico Safeway, Brown Derby bottled beer was \$1.45 a case. A first class postage stamp was 3 cents.

A new Norge refrigerator was \$149.50 at N.M. Struss, in the Oaks Garage Bldg. Chico.

A round trip train ticket to San Francisco was \$2.25 on the Sacramento Northern railroad, however only if you returned the same day, otherwise the round trip ticket was \$5.10.

The Chico Record newspaper didn't carry a lot of local stories since there weren't many, mostly national news. A subscription cost 60 cents a month.

MGM produced a cheesy 1939 short film about Amateur Radio called "Radio Hams" watch it on YouTube:

[https://youtu.be/\\_mK\\_fNmQxzs](https://youtu.be/_mK_fNmQxzs)



The line wrapped around the block in 1939 for a sale at Osers, 3rd & Main St.



Chico fire engines at the new fire house on Main St. adjacent to City Hall in 1939.

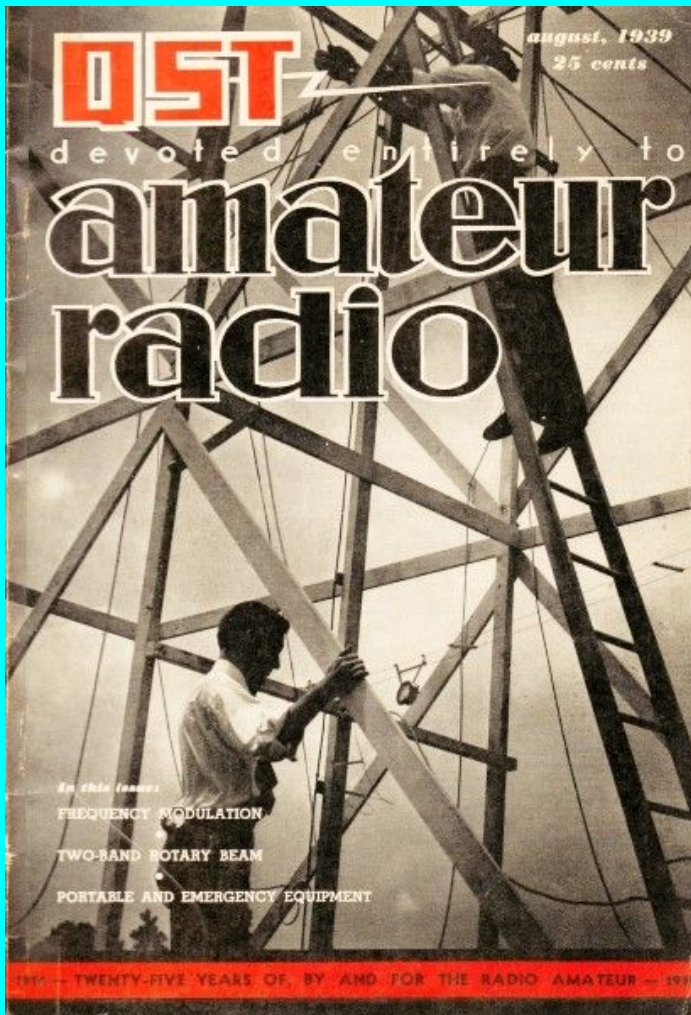




Oaks Hotel 1939 Downtown Chico

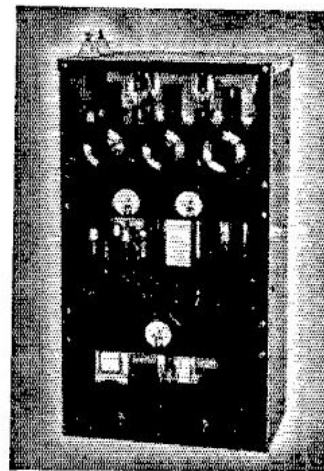


Chico High School 1939



QST Magazine August 1939. The feature story was about the new FM modulation.

## Gross Transmitters for Dependability and Economy



★ Write for free descriptive bulletin on our CB-150 and CB-250 Radiophone Transmitters

← Special price  
For limited time, minus tubes and accessories.

**\$110.50**

on the

### GROSS CB-55 RADIOPHONE TRANSMITTER

FB. for 30 MC. — Input: 95 watts. Uses: 2-T20 tubes in R.F. and 6L6's in modulator. Coils available for 30, 14, 7, 3.5, and 1.7 mc. Descriptive bulletin on request.

**GROSS RADIO, INC.**

51 Vesey Street

New York

Cable Address: GROSSINC

New transmitter \$110.50 (not including tubes and coils) 1939 advertisement in QST.

### Club Officers:

President.....Jim Matthews, K6EST  
Vice-President.....Kent Hastings, WA6ZFY  
Secretary.....Stephan Lonis, KM6RSO  
Treasurer.....Kathy Favor, K6FAV  
Director.....Rick Hubbard, KI6VOS  
Director.....Arnott Smith, KF2TM  
Director.....Dale Anderson, KK6EVX  
Past President.....Tom Rider, W6JS

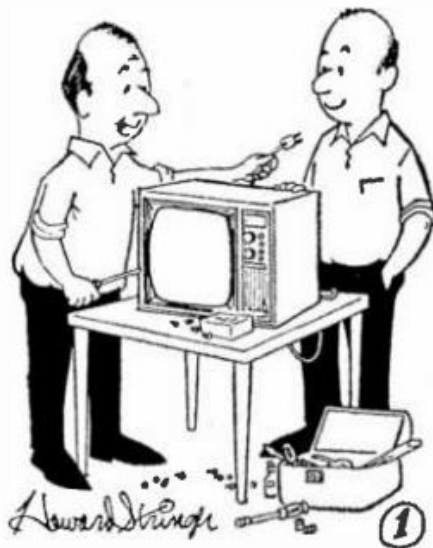
### DO YOU HAVE OLD QST MAGAZINES IN SEARCH OF A NEW HOME?

Gene Wright has that future home for your QST's, through his project to place QST Magazines in professional offices throughout Chico. Labels placed on the QST's will advertise the Golden Empire Amateur Radio Society, encourage the readers to consider Ham Radio as an interesting hobby, one of not only fun, but which provides opportunities for many and various community services.

Bring your QST's to Gene at the Club meetings or contact: Gene WA6ZRT 530-519-2519



"Each of my multiple personalities has its own call sign - and, frankly, it's driving me nuts"



There, finished. Plug it in,  
and we'll see what happens.

